

# **METHOD OF OPERATING A GAMING MACHINE WITH A TICKET PRINTER**

## **1                   Cross-reference to Related Application**

2                 This application is based on Provisional Application,  
3         Serial No. 60/259,999, filed January 5, 2001, entitled "Method  
4         of Operating a Gaming machine with a Ticket Printer."

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6                 This application relates to a method of operating a  
7         gaming machine with a printer and more particularly to a  
8         method of operating a gaming machine with a printer that  
9         presents to the player a keno ticket, a lottery ticket, a  
10       sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest, a redeem-  
11       able coupon or other valuable printed award whenever the  
12       player achieves a predetermined outcome on the gaming machine  
13       or as a random occurrence. Alternatively, whenever the player  
14       achieves a predetermined outcome on the gaming machine or as a  
15       random occurrence, the player can be connected through the  
16       gaming machine to the world wide web to a web site at which  
17       place the player may select from an award shown to the player  
18       on the web site.

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## **Background of the Invention**

2       In the typical gaming casino, there are many types of  
3   gaming machines which generally fall into the categories of  
4   slot machines, video poker machines, video keno machines and  
5   other assorted mechanical or electronic gaming machines. Each  
6   of these games works on the general principle of the player  
7   making a wager to play the gaming machine, the player activat-  
8   ing the gaming machine and the gaming machine displaying to  
9   the player the outcome of the game displayed on the gaming  
10   machine.

11       Some of the gaming machines are simply games of chance  
12   such as a slot machine. When playing the typical slot  
13   machine, the player first makes a wager and then the player  
14   activates the slot machine by pulling a handle or pressing a  
15   button. The reels of the slot machine spin and, when the  
16   reels stop spinning, the outcome is displayed to the player.  
17   Winning combinations result in a payout to the player based on  
18   the amount of the player's wager.

19       Another game of chance is a video keno machine. The  
20   player makes a wager, selects one or more numbers from a  
21   display of typically eighty numbers and presses a button to  
22   activate the play of the video keno machine. The computer

1 controls of the keno machine select a group of numbers,  
2 typically twenty, and the player receives an award whenever  
3 some or all of the numbers selected by the player match the  
4 numbers selected by the computer controls.

5 Another game of chance is video draw poker. After making  
6 a wager, the player is dealt five cards face up. The player  
7 selects which cards, if any, the player wishes to hold, the  
8 unheld cards are discarded and replacement cards are dealt for  
9 the discarded cards. The final five card hand is analyzed to  
10 determine its poker hand ranking and the player is paid for  
11 winning poker hand rankings based on the amount of the  
12 player's wager. A pay table is displayed to the player  
13 showing the amounts that the player can win based on the poker  
14 hand ranking achieved by the player and the amount wagered by  
15 the player.

16 There are also other electronic casino gaming machines  
17 that have been introduced into gaming casinos in recent years  
18 that use "secondary events" to provide additional payouts to  
19 the player. In a typical secondary event game, the player  
20 first achieves some outcome on the first screen or level of  
21 the electronic gaming machine. This first level outcome that  
22 occurs during the play of the basic electronic casino game  
23 qualifies the player to play a secondary event where the

1 player engages in another chance event to determine the  
2 amount to be won by the player.

3 One of the most popular secondary event games was "Wheel  
4 of Gold" marketed by Anchor Gaming Company. This game used a  
5 three reel slot machine as the first event. If the player  
6 lined up a "Spin" symbol on the pay line of the third reel,  
7 this qualified the player to go on to the secondary event. In  
8 the secondary event in "Wheel of Gold", a rotating wheel  
9 similar to a Big Six Wheel is spun by the player who then  
10 receives the payout shown on the pay line when the wheel stops  
11 rotating.

12 Other secondary event games have followed. On the  
13 ODYSSEY multi-game machine marketed by Silicon Gaming Company,  
14 there is a secondary event game known as "Fort Knox" used in  
15 connection with a reel slot machine game. Each time the  
16 player spins the reels of the slot machine, a random number  
17 between 0 and 9 is selected. The random number selected is  
18 compared to a pre-established ten digit "code number" and when  
19 the player has successfully matched all ten digits of the code  
20 number, the player is taken to a secondary event screen in  
21 which the player selects one of three doors behind which is a  
22 payout amount awarded to the player.

23 Secondary event games have been added to video poker

1 games also. In a game known as "Million Coin Scratch Poker"  
2 marketed by Boyd Gaming Group, the primary event game is a  
3 standard video draw poker game. Whenever the player achieves  
4 a flush in the primary event video poker game, the player is  
5 paid for achieving a flush and then is taken to a second  
6 screen in which the secondary event game is displayed. The  
7 secondary event game involves the player selecting five cards  
8 from a fifty-two card face down display, in effect, the player  
9 is playing a hand of five card stud poker. The player wins  
10 payouts depending on whether the player achieves particular  
11 poker hands during this secondary event game of five card stud  
12 poker.

13 Over the years, gaming establishments have also run  
14 promotions that encourage casino play. It is known to award  
15 the player special prizes, in addition to the regular gaming  
16 machine payout, whenever the player achieves certain winning  
17 combinations during the play of the gaming machine. For  
18 example, casinos have been known to award the player a warm-up  
19 jacket with the casino's logo whenever the player achieves a  
20 Royal Flush while playing video poker, in addition to the  
21 regular monetary award. Gaming establishments have also  
22 awarded players with entries into a raffle or drawing for  
23 prizes. Players earn a raffle or drawing ticket each time the

1 player achieves a certain size win on a gaming machine, such  
2 as a \$25 win whenever a player is playing a 25¢ gaming  
3 machine. The players fill out the raffle or drawing ticket  
4 and periodically, such as once each day, a ticket is drawn and  
5 the lucky player wins a new car.

6 Many gaming establishment operate "player's clubs" and  
7 issue ID cards to the players. Each gaming machine in the  
8 establishment is outfitted with player tracking electronics  
9 and the player inserts his ID card into a slot provided in the  
10 gaming machine. The gaming machine computer controls then  
11 track the wagering activity of the player and the player  
12 accumulates points to his player account based on the amount  
13 wagered by the player or the amount won by the player during  
14 the play of the gaming machine. The points accumulated by the  
15 player are redeemable for cash or prizes offered at the award  
16 center and can even be redeemed for meals and room charges at  
17 the gaming establishment.

18 None of the known electronic gaming machines interact in  
19 any way with any of the live casino games that are played in  
20 the gaming casino and that are available for play by gaming  
21 customers in the jurisdiction of the gaming casino. Many  
22 gaming casinos offer live keno games and many gaming casinos  
23 are located in gaming jurisdictions that also have state-run

1 lotteries. There is a need in the casino gaming business for  
2 new and creative electronic casino games to capture the  
3 interest of the gaming patron and stimulate additional casino  
4 play.

5 None of the known gaming machines interact with the world  
6 wide web in any way and one of the ways that can be used to  
7 attract and keep players for gaming machines would be to have  
8 each gaming machine interact with the world wide web on a real  
9 time basis.

10 It is an object of the present invention to provide an  
11 interaction between the electronic gaming machines and other  
12 forms of wagering that may be available to the gaming patron  
13 in the jurisdiction of the gaming casino.

14 It is a further object of the present invention to  
15 utilize the electronic gaming machine to dispense awards to  
16 the player in the form of a keno ticket, a lottery ticket, a  
17 sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest, a redeem-  
18 able coupon or other valuable printed award.

19 It is a further object of the present invention to  
20 utilize the electronic gaming machine to provide a real time  
21 connection to the world wide web while the player is playing  
22 the gaming machine.

23 It is a feature of the present invention to provide an

1 electronic gaming machine that also includes a printer device  
2 which would print out and make available to the player a keno  
3 ticket or a lottery ticket that rewards the player with a  
4 entry into a live keno game or a lottery drawing. The player  
5 would receive the keno ticket or lottery ticket whenever the  
6 player achieves a predetermined combination of playing cards,  
7 keno number, slot symbols or the like during the play of the  
8 electronic gaming machine or on a random basis determined by  
9 the gaming machine. It is anticipated that the award of the  
10 keno ticket or lottery ticket would be in addition to any  
11 other award the player may have won on the electronic gaming  
12 machine.

13 It is a further feature of the present invention to  
14 provide an electronic gaming machine that also includes a  
15 printer device which would print out and make available to the  
16 player a sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest, a  
17 redeemable coupon or other valuable printed award that can be  
18 redeemed by the player at the gaming establishment.

19 It is a further feature of the present invention to  
20 provide an electronic gaming machine with real time world wide  
21 web access so that the player can redeem any awards that the  
22 player earned while playing the gaming machine. The gaming  
23 machine could access the world wide web in any suitable

1 manner, such as by telephone line, cable modem or satellite.  
2 Prize award sites on the world wide web could be accessed by  
3 the player and the player could select his award from the  
4 prize award site while still sitting at the gaming machine.

5 It is an advantage of the present invention that the  
6 player will receive the opportunity to participate in a live  
7 keno game or a lottery game while at the same time the player  
8 is playing an electronic gaming machine. This will encourage  
9 the play of both the electronic gaming machines and the live  
10 keno games or lottery games and thus blend together the  
11 customers who normally play electronic gaming machines with  
12 live keno games and lottery games.

13 It is a further advantage of the present invention that  
14 the player can instantly receive, during the play of the  
15 gaming machine and from a printer mounted in the gaming  
16 machine, a sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest,  
17 a redeemable coupon or other valuable printed award without  
18 having to wait for the casino personnel to come by and make  
19 such an award to the player.

20 It is a further advantage of the present invention that  
21 the player can instantly redeem any prize award that the  
22 player has earned during the play of the gaming machine and a  
23 very large prize pool could be used, not limited to the

1 storage space available on site at the gaming casino.  
2 Other objects, features and advantages of the present  
3 invention will become apparent from a consideration of the  
4 following detailed description.

5

6 **Summary of the Invention**

7 The present invention comprises the method of operating a  
8 gaming machine to include the award of a keno ticket or  
9 lottery ticket when the player achieves a predetermined  
10 combination of playing cards or slot symbols on the gaming  
11 machine or on a random basis determined by the gaming machine.

12 In the method of operation, the player plays a video poker  
13 gaming machine or a slot machine in the conventional manner.  
14 During the play of the gaming machine, the player may achieve  
15 certain predetermined combinations of playing cards (during  
16 the play of video poker) or slot symbols (during the play of a  
17 slot machine). When the player achieves such a combination,  
18 the computer controls of the gaming machine will cause a  
19 printer located in the gaming machine to print out a keno  
20 ticket or a lottery ticket which would then allow the partici-  
21 pate in an upcoming live keno game or lottery drawing.  
22 Alternatively, the printer would print out for the player a

1 sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest, a redeem-  
2 able coupon or other valuable printed award.

3 In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the  
4 player would receive the keno ticket, the lottery ticket, the  
5 sweepstakes ticket, an entry into a prize contest, a redeem-  
6 able coupon or other valuable printed award in addition to any  
7 award that the player would have been entitled for achieving  
8 the combination of playing cards or slot symbols.

9 In another preferred embodiment of the present invention,  
10 the gaming machine could be configured to have real time  
11 access to the world wide web. Whenever the player earns a  
12 prize award from playing the gaming machine, the player could  
13 access a variety of gaming award sites located on the world  
14 wide web while the player is still seated at the gaming  
15 machine. The player can then redeem his prize award from a  
16 large group of prizes that can be displayed to the player on  
17 the video screen of the gaming machine.

18

19 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

20 Figure 1 shows a gaming machine configured to operate the  
21 method of the present invention.

22

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## **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiments**

2       The method of operation of the gaming machine of the  
3 present invention commences with a player making a wager and  
4 playing a conventional electronic gaming machine. Any  
5 suitable electronic gaming machine can be used for the play of  
6 this basic game, such as a video poker machine or a slot  
7 machine. During the play of the gaming machine, the player  
8 will achieve winning and losing occurrences as is conven-  
9 tional. The player will be paid for winning occurrences and  
10 lose his wager for losing occurrences as is conventional.

11       Also, during the play of the video slot machine, the  
12 player will achieve certain combinations of playing cards or  
13 slot symbols that will award the player with an additional  
14 payout of a keno ticket or a lottery ticket. For example, the  
15 player could achieve a combination of symbols on a pay line of  
16 the video slot machine for which the player wins a "Keno  
17 Ticket" or a "Lottery Ticket". In one embodiment, the player  
18 could line up three "ticket" symbols which would earn the  
19 player such a prize award. Alternatively, the award of the  
20 keno ticket or the lottery ticket could be as an additional  
21 award to a large jackpot for achieving "Three 7's". Any  
22 suitable combination of symbols could be used. Alternatively,

1 the player could simply be presented with a prize award on a  
2 random basis during the play of the gaming machine, regardless  
3 of whether the player has won or lost on a particular play of  
4 the game.

5 In another embodiment of the present invention, the  
6 player could be playing video poker. Whenever the player  
7 achieved a predetermined arrangement of playing cards, the  
8 player would be awarded with a keno ticket or a lottery  
9 ticket. For example, the player could win such a ticket for  
10 achieving a Royal Flush and the ticket would be awarded in  
11 addition to whatever payout the player would be entitled for  
12 the Royal Flush. Alternatively, the player could be awarded a  
13 keno ticket or a lottery ticket for being dealt a particularly  
14 poor starting hand, such as five cards with nothing higher  
15 than a Ten (with no pairs and not a Straight or a Flush). The  
16 player could be awarded such a ticket as a consolation award  
17 for having such a poor hand. Again the player could win a  
18 prize award on a random basis having nothing to with the  
19 outcome of the video poker game.

20 Figure 1 shows generally at 10 a gaming machine upon  
21 which the method of the present invention can be carried out.  
22 The gaming machine 10 includes a video screen display 20 on  
23 which are shown the playing cards that will be used during the

1 play of the method of the present invention. The video screen  
2 display 20 also includes other information and data presented  
3 to the player to allow the player to understand the play of  
4 the game and to effect the operation of the method.

5 In the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the  
6 video screen display 20 also shows a credit meter 22 and a  
7 first display 24 of the number of credits bet by the player.  
8 The video screen display also has touch screen locations to  
9 allow the player to DRAW 47 replacement cards and to make his  
10 BET 26. Each of the card locations on the video screen  
11 display can also be touch screen locations so that the player  
12 may designate which cards he wishes to hold by merely touching  
13 the card location on the video screen display 20.

14 The gaming machine 10 also has a button panel 40 which  
15 includes typical buttons that the player may press to activate  
16 various actions during the play of the method of the present  
17 invention. A CASH OUT button 41 is provided to allow the  
18 player to collect any credits which the player has accrued on  
19 the credit meter 22. A BET MAX button 42 and a BET ONE button  
20 44 are provided to allow the player to wager either the  
21 maximum amount of credits permitted by the gaming machine or  
22 to wager one credit at a time on the play of the game as  
23 desired by the player. A DRAW button 46 is provided to allow

1 the player to effect the draw step of the method of play as  
2 desired should the player prefer to use the button panel 40  
3 instead of the DRAW touch screen location 47 on the video  
4 screen display 20. A plurality of HOLD buttons 48 are also  
5 provided to allow the player to select which cards the player  
6 wishes to hold should the player prefer to use the button  
7 panel instead of the card touch screen locations on the video  
8 screen display 20. If desired, a button may be added to the  
9 button panel 40 to allow the player to select the amount to be  
10 wagered.

11 The gaming machine 10 also includes a coin head 50 to  
12 allow the player to insert coins or gaming tokens as wagers to  
13 allow play of the gaming machine 10. A bill acceptor slot 52  
14 is also provided on the gaming machine 10. In order to accrue  
15 credits that may be used to play the gaming machine 10, the  
16 player inserts paper currency or other suitable script or  
17 gaming coupons into the bill acceptor slot 52 behind which, on  
18 the interior of the gaming machine 10, is mounted a bill  
19 acceptor which takes in and validates the currency. The  
20 monetary value of the inserted currency is then applied to the  
21 credit meter 22, the credits on which the player may use to  
22 play the gaming machine.

23 The gaming machine 10 also includes a ticket printer (not

1 shown) of any suitable technology. The ticket printer is  
2 mounted on the interior of the gaming machine and the ticket  
3 printer slot 70 allows the ticket printer to eject a ticket  
4 for accessibility by the player.

5 The gaming machine 10 is operated by conventional  
6 computer controls which are mounted on the interior of the  
7 gaming machine. Any other conventional and suitable equipment  
8 can be included in the gaming machine 10.

9 The gaming machine of the present invention can be used  
10 for electronic video poker games designed to be played by  
11 having a first poker hand representing a first pay line  
12 displayed to a player on the video screen 22. By manipulating  
13 the buttons on the gaming device or by using conventional  
14 touch screen technology, the player selects which cards he  
15 wishes to play and which cards he wishes to discard. Replace-  
16 ment cards are then displayed for the discarded cards and the  
17 outcome of the play of the hand is determined.

18 Alternatively, instead of displaying a video poker game,  
19 the video screen display 22 can be configured through the  
20 computer controls to display one or more lines of symbols so  
21 that a video slot machine game may be played on the gaming  
22 machine 10. The touch screen locations and the buttons on the  
23 button panel are configured in a conventional manner to allow

1 the player to play the gaming machine as a slot machine.

2 Whenever the player wins a keno ticket or a lottery  
3 ticket, the player uses that ticket to participate in either a  
4 keno game or a lottery game, respectively.

5 For example, with regard to the keno ticket, the player  
6 could be awarded a keno ticket that has one or more keno  
7 numbers that have been selected for the player by the computer  
8 controls of the gaming machine 10. The keno ticket would be  
9 associated with a particular keno game and the player would  
10 win or lose on the keno ticket based on the outcome of the  
11 keno numbers selected during the associated keno game.

12 Preferably, the keno game would be a live keno game  
13 conducted on the premises of the same gaming establishment at  
14 which the player is playing the electronic gaming machine.  
15 When the player achieves a "keno ticket" combination on the  
16 gaming machine that the player is playing, the printer would  
17 present the keno ticket to the player by dispensing the keno  
18 ticket through the printer slot 70 of the gaming machine. The  
19 player could participate in the keno game for which the keno  
20 ticket is associated by watching the keno game outcome as it  
21 is displayed on the keno number boards located throughout the  
22 gaming establishment as is conventional. If the player has a  
23 winning keno ticket, the player could redeem the winning keno

1 ticket at the cashier's station in the keno lounge or at a  
2 suitable casino cage location in the gaming establishment.

3 Alternatively, when the player wins a keno ticket award,  
4 the gaming machine 10 can be configured to provide a location  
5 on the video screen display 20 at which the player can select  
6 the keno numbers which the player wishes to play on his keno  
7 ticket award. For example, a conventional keno layout of  
8 eighty numbers can be shown to the player on the video screen  
9 display 20 and the player can select one or more numbers to be  
10 played on the keno ticket award. The selection of numbers can  
11 be done by using touch screen technology or in any other  
12 suitable manner. Once the player has selected his numbers,  
13 the ticket printer is activated and the keno ticket award is  
14 printed and dispensed to the player through ticket printer  
15 slot 70.

16 Alternatively, the player can merely press a touch screen  
17 location denominated "Quick Pick" and the computer controls of  
18 the gaming machine will randomly select the keno numbers which  
19 the player will play on the keno ticket award.

20 If the video monitor used for the video screen display  
21 has sufficient screen area, the live keno game occurring in  
22 the gaming establishment can be shown to the player in real  
23 time while the player is playing the video gaming machine.

1 The results of one or more of the last live keno games may be  
2 displayed to the player. Since keno players often like to see  
3 the results of one or more previous games before selecting the  
4 keno numbers to be played in the next keno game, this informa-  
5 tion can be made available to the player to assist in his keno  
6 number selection when the player wins a keno ticket award.

7 Some keno players like to play their "lucky" numbers  
8 whenever they play keno. Therefore, it is also possible to  
9 configure the gaming machine 10 to allow the player to pick  
10 one or more keno numbers to be used on any keno ticket award  
11 prior to the player actually winning such an award. In such a  
12 configuration, the video screen display for a keno ticket is  
13 activated at the time the player begins playing the gaming  
14 machine. The player then selects one or more keno numbers  
15 which will be used on the keno ticket awarded to the player  
16 should the player achieve a combination on the gaming machine  
17 that results in the award of a keno ticket. When the player  
18 wins such an award, the computer controls of the gaming  
19 machine merely print the keno ticket and the player is  
20 automatically entered into the next live keno game.

21 Also, for example, with regard to the lottery ticket,  
22 the player could be awarded a lottery ticket that has a group  
23 of lottery numbers that have been selected for the player by

1 the computer controls of the gaming machine 10. The lottery  
2 ticket would be associated with a particular lottery game and  
3 the player would win or lose on the lottery ticket based on  
4 the outcome of the lottery numbers selected during the  
5 associated lottery game.

6 Preferably, the lottery game would be one that was  
7 conducted either on the premises of the same gaming establish-  
8 ment at which the player is playing the electronic gaming  
9 machine or as part of the daily or weekly lottery drawing that  
10 is conducted in the state in which the gaming establishment is  
11 located. When the player achieves a "lottery ticket" combina-  
12 tion on the gaming machine that the player is playing, the  
13 printer would present the lottery ticket to the player by  
14 dispensing the lottery ticket through the printer slot 70 of  
15 the gaming machine. The player could participate in the  
16 lottery game for which the lottery ticket is associated by  
17 comparing the numbers on the lottery ticket with the lottery  
18 numbers drawn during the daily or weekly lottery drawing. If  
19 the player has a winning lottery ticket, the player could  
20 redeem the winning lottery ticket in the same manner that the  
21 player would redeem a winning lottery ticket that the player  
22 had purchased directly, rather than having won the lottery  
23 ticket playing a gaming machine.

1        In the embodiment of the present invention in which the  
2 player is awarded a lottery ticket instead of a keno ticket,  
3 the same various gaming machine configurations may be used.  
4 The gaming machine can be configured so that the player can  
5 select his lottery numbers, either before he wins a lottery  
6 ticket award or at the time the player wins a lottery ticket  
7 award. Alternatively, the gaming machine can be configured to  
8 allow the player to merely press a "Quick Pick" location and  
9 have the gaming machine randomly select the lottery numbers to  
10 be used on the lottery ticket awarded to the player.

11        In another embodiment of the present invention, the  
12 ticket printer of the present invention can be used to print  
13 award coupons for the player in formats other than keno  
14 tickets or lottery tickets. Whenever the player achieves  
15 combination of symbols on a slot machine or a combination of  
16 playing cards on a video poker game that entitles the player  
17 to an award, the computer controls of the gaming machine cause  
18 the ticket printer to print an award coupon to the player.  
19 The combination of symbols or combination of playing cards can  
20 be either a winning or losing combination on the gaming  
21 machine.

22        In one example, whenever the player achieves a Four-of-a-  
23 Kind while playing video poker, the player could also win an

1 award coupon dispensed by the ticket printer. The award  
2 coupon could be a comp for a free meal, such as a buffet, at  
3 the gaming establishment. Or the award coupon could be a  
4 prize ticket redeemable for merchandise at a prize booth or in  
5 the gift shop of the gaming establishment. The award could a  
6 coupon entitling the player to a free or reduced fee entry  
7 into a slot tournament or a video poker tournament to be  
8 conducted on the premises of the gaming establishment.

9 Any suitable award scheme could be used as long as the  
10 award coupon or ticket can be dispensed by the ticket printer  
11 of the gaming machine.

12 In another alternative embodiment of the present invention,  
13 the gaming machine could be configured to have real time  
14 access to the world wide web. Each gaming machine in the  
15 gaming casino can be provided with an internal modem or a  
16 network card so that the gaming machine would have real time  
17 access to the world wide web. This access could be by means  
18 of a telephone connection or by means of a cable modem  
19 connection. Alternatively, the gaming machine could be  
20 connected by means of a LAN or a WAN in any suitable conven-  
21 tional manner.

22 Whenever the player earns a prize award from playing the  
23 gaming machine, the player could access a variety of gaming

1 award sites located on the world wide web while the player is  
2 still seated at the gaming machine. The gaming casino being  
3 visited by the player could have its own prize award redemp-  
4 tion site on the world wide web and the redemption site could  
5 have a variety of prize awards that are available to the  
6 player. The redemption site could have a plurality of pages  
7 with each page devoted to various categories of prizes that  
8 would appeal to different players. Additionally, the gaming  
9 machine could be configured to access world wide sites that  
10 are not operated by the gaming casino, but rather have  
11 affiliated with the gaming casino to provide prize award  
12 redemption services to the gaming casino.

13       The player can then redeem his prize award from a large  
14 group of prizes that can be displayed to the player on the  
15 video screen of the gaming machine. Some of the prize awards  
16 can be maintained on the premises of the gaming casino and be  
17 immediately available to the player. Other prizes can be  
18 shipped or sent to the player at his mailing address which  
19 would make receipt of the prize very convenient for the  
20 player.

21       Since the video screen display would be right there in  
22 front of the player, the review and selection of the prize  
23 award could not be more convenient. The player never has to

1 leave his position at the gaming machine and the player can  
2 look at the various prize awards that are available in color  
3 using the technology of the video screen display. If the  
4 prize award comes in sizes, shapes or colors, the player can  
5 select the appropriate size, shape or color by merely inter-  
6 acting with the video screen display using either the buttons  
7 on the button panel of the gaming machine or by using touch  
8 screen technology. The player does not have to worry that the  
9 gaming casino may be out of stock of the prize award desired  
10 by the player and the entire process of redeeming the player's  
11 prize award can be a fun, interactive experience. And there  
12 is no waiting for the redemption center to open and there is  
13 no standing in line at the redemption center.

14 In yet another embodiment of the present invention, a  
15 person could access either an actual gaming casino or a  
16 virtual gaming casino by means of his personal computer. The  
17 person would then log on and play video poker on his personal  
18 computer. The functions of the ticket printer which has been  
19 incorporated into the gaming machine discussed above would be  
20 performed by the printer attached to the person's personal  
21 computer. When the player achieves a result that entitles him  
22 to a bonus award payout, he can use his personal computer to  
23 print out an award slip that he can use to redeem his bonus

1 award. Additionally, there are gaming machines now that  
2 accept paper coupons as the equivalent of money with the value  
3 of the paper coupon being added to the credit meter of the  
4 gaming machine so that these credits can be used to play the  
5 gaming machine. The player could print out on his personal  
6 computer one or more coupons that could then be used in a  
7 gaming machine. Appropriate controls by means of bar codes or  
8 other security devices would be used to prevent counterfeit  
9 coupons from being printed.

10 If the player had won a keno ticket or a lottery ticket,  
11 the player could use his personal computer to print out the  
12 keno ticket or the lottery ticket and then the player would  
13 take this ticket to a corresponding gaming machine to see if  
14 the player had won on this ticket. Again, appropriate  
15 controls by means of bar codes or other security devices would  
16 be used to prevent counterfeit keno tickets or lottery tickets  
17 from being printed. Each participating gaming casino could be  
18 outfitted with a ticket reader that would verify the validity  
19 of the printed ticket and determine if it was a winning or  
20 losing ticket.

21 While the invention has been illustrated with respect to  
22 several specific embodiments thereof, these embodiments should  
23 be considered as illustrative rather than limiting. Various

1 modifications and additions may be made and will be apparent  
2 to those skilled in the art. Accordingly, the invention  
3 should not be limited by the foregoing description, but rather  
4 should be defined only by the following claims